

**REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed July 25, 2003.

1. Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of this response, claims 1-20, 47-51 and 116-144 remain pending. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-20, 47-51 and 116-144, as noted in the Office Action Summary sheet. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of the claims.

2. Original Letters Patent

In the Office Action at paragraph 2, the Office Action alleges that the "original letters patent or the statement stating its loss has not been submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.178(a) before allowance." Applicant's records indicate that the Original Letters Patent was submitted to the Patent Office on November 27, 2001.

MPEP §503 states that "a postcard receipt which itemizes and properly identifies the papers which are being filed serves as prima facie evidence of receipt in the PTO of all the items listed on the date stamped thereon by the PTO." Furthermore, MPEP §503 states that "the person receiving the paper(s) in the Patent and Trademark Office should check the listing on the postcard against the papers being filed to be sure they are present. If any of the items listed are not being filed, those items should be crossed off and the card initialed by the person receiving the papers."

Attached is a copy of the returned postcard receipt that indicates receipt by the PTO of the items listed on the postcard. Receipt is indicated by the assigned application serial number 09/996967 sticker affixed to the postcard receipt. The returned postcard receipt indicates that the Original Letters Patent was received concurrently with the specification on November 27, 2001. None of the listed items on the postcard receipt were crossed off and initialed by the person who received the filing for the instant application. Therefore, in accordance with MPEP §503, the returned postcard receipt for the subject invention is prima facie evidence that the Original Letters Patent was received on November 27, 2001.

However, in the alternative, to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant states, upon information and belief, that the Applicant believes that the Original Letters Patent is lost or inaccessible.

Accordingly, the Applicant requests the Examiner to allow the issuance of the present application since the Original Letters Patent was surrendered to the Patent Office, or alternatively, that the Applicant has made the requisite statement required under 37 C.F.R. 1.178(a) that the Original Letters Patent is lost or inaccessible.

3. Conclusion

In light of the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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